



MARCH 12, 2010

HEALTH ADVISORY

Department of Health Urges Health-Care Facilities To Prepare For Possible Flooding

The North Dakota Department of Health is urging health-care facilities to take steps now to prepare for possible flooding this spring.

The National Weather Service has predicted that parts of North Dakota could once again be challenged with severe flooding, similar to 2009. In order to prepare for possible flooding, health-care facilities should take the following steps now:

- Facilities should test electrical generators and other emergency equipment. Facilities also should assure availability of adequate fuel for generators and make sure other essential supplies are available.
- Facilities should ensure that any stored fuel will be protected from high water levels. Above ground tanks that may be exposed to flood or surface water runoff should be secured to resist buoyancy forces.
- Facilities should ensure that plans are in place for additional staffing if needed.

For additional information or questions, please call the North Dakota Department of Health's Operations Center at 701.328.1326.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

- Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.
- Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.
- Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.
- Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.

This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, North Dakota EMS Association and hospital public information officers.